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Joseph Kiser Obituary

Kiser, Joseph Ward,

was born as one of a triplet of boys in a one-room schoolhouse on April 12, 1935 in Central City, PA. He died unexpectedly - if that is possible for a man who battled congestive heart failure and numerous other life-threatening conditions for over 35 years. His heart stopped early in the morning on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at Jewish Hospital, Louisville, KY while awaiting a minor procedure to reduce bleeding from his bladder. He was preceded in death by his parents Walter Theodore and Mary Audrey Nail Kiser, his brother Robert B. Kiser, his wife Carol Mae Reather Kiser (1964) and beloved wife of 50 years, Judy Gayle Baker Kiser (2016). Surviving to mourn his death are his sister Beatrice Kiser Blettner (Bradenton, FL) and his triplet brothers James L. and John A. Kiser (Johnstown, PA) and their families. Scores and scores of dearly loved friends and "adopted" family will grieve with them along with his daughter and grandson Sarah Kiser Lawson and Matthew Joseph Parrish and his son and daughter-in-law Paul Joseph Kiser and Jennifer Bradley Kiser. Sharing their grief are his granddaughters Kaitlyn Mary Kiser and Kayleigh Noelle Kiser and his "middle child" and dear friend, Martin F. Sherman.

Joseph served honorably in the US Navy and was discharged from active service in 1957 and from the US Naval Reserve in 1961. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1961 and from the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary and was subsequently ordained as a Lutheran Pastor in 1964. He worked diligently and faithfully in service to the Lord for 53 years as a pastor at First Lutheran Church, Norfolk, VA; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Highland, IN; Third Lutheran Church, Louisville, KY; All Saints Lutheran Church, Tamarac, FL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and St. Mark Lutheran Church, Louisville, KY. He was instrumental in the congregational growth resulting in new construction of sanctuaries at both Gloria Dei and All Saints Lutheran Churches. He served as chairman of the 1982 national convention of the Lutheran Church in America when it met in Louisville, KY. During this event the vote passed to merge with two other Lutheran denominations to form the third largest protestant denomination in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As a mentor and friend Joe was also instrumental in guiding and shepherding many others to follow him in his Lutheran ministry; most recently assisting Rev. Steven S Renner of Third Lutheran Church in his journey of faith. An enthusiastic historian, with great affection for both US and western world history Joe loved to travel and experience first-hand the multitudes of locations of historic events he had studied at great length. He shared this joy with others in practical application as a devoted volunteer and docent at Historic Locust Grove, Louisville, KY. He was also an outspoken advocate of LGBTQ rights within the ministry, amongst youth and in society at large, including marriage within the Church.

Service was truly his passion and to know him was to feel the love that God intends for us all to share with each other. He will be missed by far more than any of us know.

A memorial celebration of Joe's life will be held on Sunday, July 2nd at 3:00PM at Third Lutheran Church, 1864 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206. In lieu of flowers, please send

donations to Third Lutheran Church.

Cremation Society of Kentucky
1-888-935-1040

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